

CLAIMS

We claim:

- A method for forming a mask, which comprises:
 providing a photosensitive material;
 performing at least one pass to write a pattern onto the photosensitive material; and
 developing the photosensitive material.
- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising etching the photosensitive material.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive material is a photoresist, an ebeam resist, a HEBS glass, an emulsion or a black resist.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein there are about 2-8 passes.
- 5. The method of claim 1, whrein each pass is offset such that no two passes write along the same path.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one pass is performed using a laser, uv, electron beam, infrared, visible or x-ray source.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein stitching error and exposure non-uniformity is reduced.
- 8. A method of lithographic processing for the formation of a microstructure, which comprises:

providing a substrate;

applying a photosensitive material over the substrate;

performing at least one pass to write a pattern of a specific structure onto the photosensitive material, whereby stitching error and exposure non-uniformity is reduced;



melting at least a portion of the photosensitive material, whereby general roughness error is reduced;

developing the photosensitive material; and removing remaining photosensitive material.

- 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising: etching the photosensitive material to transfer the microstructure onto the substrate.
- 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one pass is performed using a mask.
- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the mask has been formed using a plurality of passes.
- 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of melting comprises a step of heating the photosensitive material at a temperature for a period of time.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the temperature is about 80-170°C and the time is up to about 1 hour.
- 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the temperature is about 60-90°C and the time is greater to or equal to about 30 minutes.
- 15. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of melting comprises placing the photosensitive material upside down near a heat source.
- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the heat source comprises a hot plate.
- 17. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of melting comprises flowing a hot fluid or solvent vapor across the surface of the photosensitive material.



- 18. The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises: performing gray scale lithography.
- 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the gray scale lithography process is half tone process.
- 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the gray scale lithography process is a modulated exposure masking process.
- 21. The method of claim 8, wherein there are about 2-8 passes.
- 22. The method of claim 8, wherein each pass is offset such that no two passes write along a same path.
- 23. A mask, the mask being formed by a process comprising: providing a photosensitive material; performing at least one pass to write a pattern onto the photosensitive material; and developing the photosensitive material.
- 24. The mask of claim 23, wherein the photosensitive material is a photoresist.
- 25. The mask of claim 23, wherein there are about 2-8 passes.
- 26. The mask of claim 23, whrein each pass is offset such that no two passes write along the same path.
- 27. The mask of claim 23, wherein the process further comprises etching the photosensitive material.



- 28. The mask of claim 23, wherein stitching error and exposure non-uniformity is reduced.
- 29. A microstructure, the microstructure being formed by a process comprising: providing a substrate;

applying a photosensitive material over the substrate;

performing at least one pass to write a pattern of a specific structure onto the photosensitive material, whereby stitching error and exposure non-uniformity is reduced;

melting at least a portion of the photosensitive material, whereby general roughness error is reduced;

developing the photosensitive material; and removing remaining photosensitive material.

- 30. The microstructure of claim 29, wherein the at least one pass is performed using a mask.
- 31. The microstructure of claim 29, wherein the step of melting comprises a step of heating the photosensitive material at a temperature for a period of time.
- 32. The microstructure of claim 31, wherein the temperature is about 80-170°C and the time is up to about 1 hour.
- 33. The microstructure of claim 29, wherein the temperature is about 60-90°C and the time is greater to or equal to about 30 minutes.
- 34. The microstructure material of claim 29, wherein the photosensitive material is a photoresist.



35. The microstructure of claim 29, wherein the microstructure is a turbine rotor, a micro-lens, a microfluidic device, a microrelay, an optical attenuator, an optical shutter, a photonic switch, an accelerometer or a gyroscope.